



**WCFC Meeting  
October 10, 2012  
Pierce County Environmental Services Building  
University Place**

**Members Attending:** Micki McNaughton, Sarah Foster, Joe Scorcio, Sheila Gray, Terry Flatley, Jim Freed (left at 12:30), Lisa Ciecko, Ara Erickson, Kathy Wolf, Dave Erickson, Sandy Salisbury, Sarah Foster (left at 12:30),

**Absent:** Barbara Hollenbeck, Jim Flott, Dave Nelson, Brian Cramer, Richard Emery

**Guests:** Linden Lampman Mead, Mark Gray, Garth Davis

Meeting was called to order at 9:12 by Chair Joe Scorcio. Council members introduced themselves and welcomed new member Dave Erickson, representing WA State Recreation and Parks Association, and Ara Erickson, returning to the Council as an At-Large member.

The Agenda was reviewed. Kathy Wolf asked to add an agenda item to discuss a letter from the Council to the US Forest Service in support of continued urban forestry research. Agenda was approved with addition.

**May 9, 2012 Meeting Minutes:** MOTION: Sandy Salisbury moved to approve May 9<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes, Jim Freed seconded. Motion carried.

**UCF Program Update:** Mark Gray updated the Council on the Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) program. Sarah is currently on temporary assignment as the Assistant Resource Protection Division Manager for budget and finance, in the meantime Linden is filling in as UCF Program Manager.

Historically dry conditions over a long stretch of time have created more fire starts, even in western Washington, this year. Fires have threatened communities as well as urban natural areas. The fire season has been a real challenge and has used significant program resources. The Jobs Bill restoration project is going as planned and is expected to continue over a 2 year period. This is a good opportunity to show legislators what can be done with state funding.

Linden updated the Council on upcoming grant programs. This season there will be two grant options; the community forestry assistance grant and the new community forestry inventory grant.

The Evergreen Communities Act (ECA) provided guidance that all communities inventory trees within a consistent state-wide data standard. The inventory grant assists communities in the effort and streamlines the process by sending DNR contracted inventory specialists to

1 communities to collect data based on ECA protocols. Communities avoid contract procurement  
2 costs, and consistent data is being collected throughout the state.

3  
4 A pilot project is currently underway in five communities, Toppenish, Cashmere, Chelan,  
5 Buckley and DuPont. The Davey Resource Group was contracted to collect tree inventory data  
6 which is provided to DNR in a format that integrates into agency tree inventory software. Davey  
7 will provide written reports about the composition and condition of public trees along with  
8 management recommendations. Participating communities have the option to receive inventory  
9 data in a spreadsheet format or can purchase the tree inventory software at a reduced cost  
10 through DNR.

11  
12 The Council agreed that the inventory project will go far to meet the goals of the ECA. The  
13 question was raised whether the state will compile all inventory data into a large state-wide data  
14 base, and whether grant funding can be used to convert data to a format compatible with the  
15 DNR's tree inventory software. This is something that will have to be determined by the Forest  
16 Service as the current USFS funding cannot be expended on data conversion.

17  
18 The Tree City USA reporting season is coming up. The online application system should be even  
19 better this year. Council members should encourage any communities they have been working  
20 with to prepare for end-of-the-year reporting, and let Linden know if those communities need  
21 assistance.

22  
23 The Community Tree Management Institute will wrap up with a three day session at the  
24 Menucha Conference Center on the Columbia Gorge. There are 31 students enrolled.

25  
26 Jobs bill overview: Project coordinator, Micki McNaughton updated the Council on the Jobs  
27 Bill. The project was launched on October 1 when Washington Conservation Corp (WCC) crews  
28 began training. The three crews, 18 crew positions, are hired through the Department of Ecology,  
29 and are now working on projects in Pierce, King and Clark Counties.

30  
31 Projects are designed to restore urban forest natural areas, and thereby enhance water quality, by  
32 removing invasive plants. There has been a lot of interest from communities to secure crews to  
33 complete restoration projects.

34  
35 Each local project will be a maximum of 3 weeks per community to enable work in as many  
36 communities as possible. Work is free to communities, but DNR is asking for a commitment  
37 match consisting of a monitoring plan, three years of follow-up maintenance and an annual  
38 monitoring report. The report will incorporate mapping in order to track project efficacy. Crews  
39 are currently working in Vancouver, University Place and Issaquah.

40  
41 A formal application process is being developed. At this time all work will be on the west side of  
42 the state.

43  
44 **Council Business:** The Council reviewed the UCF Strategic Plan and established focus  
45 priorities as follows:

- 46 • Create specific job descriptions for each Council position; include roles, expectations  
47 and responsibilities.
- 48 • Begin work in 2013 on the Strategic Plan update, due in 2015.

- Reach out to allied organizations with shared interests, for partnering to support future urban forestry initiatives.
- Support state-level urban forestry programs such as the Jobs Bill.
- Investigate opportunities to improve and support state-wide non-profit urban forestry coalitions.
- Recommend and standardize state-wide best management practices.
- Respond to national and regional “calls for review” of urban forestry initiatives.
- Expand the recognition program to include outstanding leadership in urban forestry throughout the state.
- Elevate the position of Washington in national urban forestry funding and research.

**Officer Nominations for 2013** – Nominations were taken from the floor. Chair nominees: Joe Scorcio. Vice Chair nominees: Sheila Gray. In accordance with the Council Articles of Association, a vote will be taken during the February meeting.

### **Meeting Dates and Locations for 2013**

Proposed meeting dates and locations for 2013:

February 13, Olympia (organizer: TBD)  
May 15, Wenatchee (Dave E.)  
September 11, Issaquah (Micki)  
November 13, Seattle (Lisa)

Meetings will be held the second Wednesday of the month.

MOTION: Dave Erickson moved and Sandy seconded to have four meetings in 2013, as proposed.

**Outreach Subcommittee Report:** Ara reminded Council members of the checklist developed by the outreach group to assist in meeting planning. The document will be uploaded to the Council’s webpage so it is accessible to all.

The Council’s awards program is being revamped and is the current focus of the committee. A fillable PDF award nomination form is being developed. The awards program will be highlighted in the Tree Link newsletter with a link to the application, once it becomes available on the Council website.

**Support for Research and Development:** Kathy reported that thanks to United States Forest Service (USFS) urban forestry research and development has made good progress. While there is still much to be accomplished in this area, funding for regional research is expected to end soon.

MOTION: Dave E. moved and Kathy seconded that the Council draft and send two letters endorsing additional funds for regional urban forestry research, one to USFS urban and community forestry one to USFS state and private forestry, with an invitation to attend a Council meeting discuss regional UF research and development. The motion passed.

**Upcoming Election:** Joe advised the Council that following the last two elections for the Public Lands Commissioner, the Council sent a letter to the Commissioner regarding the WCFC and its

1 continuing role in the UCF program. He requested authorization to send a letter on behalf of the  
2 Council again this year.

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4 **MOTION:** Sandy moved, and Ara seconded the motion to authorize the Chair to send a letter as  
5 described. The motion passed.

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7 **Roundtable:** Lisa invited Council members to an upcoming research showcase sponsored by  
8 Forterra and the University of Washington. She will send details.

9  
10 Sheila is planning to attend the next Washington State Association of Counties conference in  
11 Wenatchee with the UCF display.

12  
13 The National Urban and Community Forestry Council grants have recently been announced.

14  
15 Micki recently presented a short course incorporating urban forestry principles and processes  
16 into urban design and planning at the annual meeting of the Infrastructure Assistance  
17 Coordination Council (IACC). The presentation was developed through a Community Forestry  
18 Assistance Grant, in cooperation with the USFS, for the Planning Association of Washington  
19 (PAW). Contact Micki if you are interested in the 2-3 hour presentation.

20  
21 Kathy reported that she has had a lot of requests for presentations. She was a recent contributor  
22 to a British Columbia publication Site Line. The article can be accessed the following link:  
23 [http://dl.dropbox.com/u/4775029/BCSLA%20Sitelines\\_October%202012.pdf](http://dl.dropbox.com/u/4775029/BCSLA%20Sitelines_October%202012.pdf)

24  
25 In response to a question, Joe advised Council members that clothing with the WCFC logo can  
26 be purchased through Land's End.

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28 Recap of Action Items:

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- 30 1. Letter to USFS State & Private Forestry and Urban & Community Forestry in support of
  - 31 continued regional urban and community forestry research. (Kathy, Joe)
  - 32 2. Post-election letter to Commissioner of Public Lands. (Joe, Sarah/Linden)
  - 33 3. Nomination form for UCF awards crafted as a fillable PDF document. (Ara; outreach
  - 34 committee)
  - 35 4. Article for Tree Link announcing awards program (Ara; outreach committee)
- 36  
37

38 **Next meeting:** February 13<sup>th</sup> in Olympia. Commissioner Goldmark and State Forester Everett  
39 will be invited.

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41 Meeting adjourned at 2:20 PM.